



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 21, 2003

### **S. 515** **Ombudsman Reauthorization Act of 2003**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
on April 9, 2003*

#### **SUMMARY**

S. 515 would reauthorize the Office of the Ombudsman within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and would authorize the appropriation of \$18 million over the 2004-2008 period to support that office as well as \$24 million over the 2009-2013 period. The Office of the Ombudsman has been maintained since its authorization expired in 1988 and was most recently transferred to EPA's Office of the Inspector General.

Under S. 515, the new office would be an independent office within EPA and the director of the office ( i.e., the Ombudsman) would be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The Ombudsman would have the authority to investigate citizen complaints about programs under EPA's jurisdiction and would have control over the office's budget and staff. CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would cost \$18 million over the 2004-2008 period, assuming appropriation of the specified amounts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 515 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$18 million over the 2004-2008 period, assuming appropriation of the amounts authorized for each year. For this estimate, we assume the bill will be enacted near the beginning of fiscal year 2004. The estimated outlays are based on historical patterns for similar activities. The estimated budgetary impact of S. 515 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
EPA Ombudsman Spending Under Current Law						
Budget Authority <sup>a</sup>	1	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	1	0	0	0	0	0
Office of the Ombudsman						
Authorization Level	0	3	3	4	4	4
Estimated Outlays	0	3	3	4	4	4
EPA Ombudsman Spending Under S. 515						
Authorization Level	1	3	3	4	4	4
Estimated Outlays	1	3	3	4	4	4

a. The 2003 level is the amount appropriated for that year for the Office of the Ombudsman.

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 606 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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